

C L A I M S

1. A computerized method of managing workload within a Workflow-Management-System (WFMS) said method being executable by said WFMS on at least one computer system,

said WFMS comprising a process-model, said process-model comprising one or more activities being the nodes of an arbitrary graph, and directed edges of said graph defining a potential control-flow within said process-model, and

said method comprising a determination-step, wherein said process-model is analyzed if a priority-execution-specification is assigned to said one activity comprising at least one Boolean-predicate and a priority-level, and,

in the affirmative case, said method comprising a launching-step

said launching-step evaluating said Boolean-predicate using a variable-value not comprised in said process-model but said variable-value being comprised in a context of an instance of said process-model, and,

if said Boolean-predicate evaluates to TRUE, said launching-step launches execution of said one activity in said activity's execution-environment with an execution-priority specified according to said priority-level.

2. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1,

wherein said Boolean-predicate is evaluated just before launching execution of said one activity to base said evaluation on the most current context.

3. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1,

wherein said context comprises a data storage shared between activities, and/or

wherein said context comprises an global container of said instance of said process-model, and/or

wherein said context comprises an input-container of said one activity, and/or

wherein said context comprises an output-container of a certain activity.

4. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1 wherein said WFMS comprising at least one WFMS-client and at least one WFMS-server,

wherein, if an instance of said process-model has not been instantiated yet,

 said WFMS-client is evaluating said Boolean-predicate, and

 said WFMS-client is sending a START message via a communication-system to said WFMS-server setting said message to a message-priority corresponding to said priority-level, and

 said communication-system being responsive to said message-priority by handling its delivery according to said priority-level, and

said WFMS-server being responsive to said message-priority by instantiating said process-model and launching execution of said instance of said process-model according to said priority-level.

5. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1,

wherein, if said Boolean-predicate evaluates to TRUE, said WFMS sets its own execution-priority for the WFMS-internal processing relating to said one activity with respect to the WFMS's execution-environment to the execution-priority specified according to said priority-level, and/or

wherein, if said Boolean-predicate evaluates to TRUE, one or more messages for communication within said WFMS and/or between different WFMS and/or with said activity via a communication-system said message relating to the processing of said activity are set to the execution-priority specified according to said priority-level.

6. A method of managing workload within a WFMS according to claim 1,

wherein, if said priority-execution-specification is specified with said process-model, said method is assigning said priority-execution-specification to all activities comprised by said process-model, and/or

wherein, if said priority-execution-specification is specified with a performance-sphere, said performance-sphere comprising a sub-graph of said process-model, said method assigning said process-execution-specification to all activities within said performance-sphere, and/or

wherein, if said priority-execution-specification is specified with said one activity, said method assigning said process-execution-specification to said one activity.

7. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of the method according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 6.

8. A data processing program for execution in a data processing system comprising software code portions for performing a method according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 6.

9. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising computer readable program means for causing a computer to perform a method according to anyone of the preceding claims 1 to 6.